

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals on the Most Important Topics of the Hour.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

A Report of Some Interest About the Rio Grande.

From the Times.

We observe with satisfaction that "General" R. Clay Crawford, the renowned commander of the "American Division" of the Liberal army of Mexico, is cooling his martial ardor in the casemates of Fort Jackson, below New Orleans.

It appears that after the late disgraceful raid upon Bagdad, that officer had the audacity to go to New Orleans—the headquarters itself of our Military Division of the Gulf, and the residence of Generals Sheridan and Canby—"for reinforcements and supplies." As to the reinforcements, the amount of recruits he procured is very uncertain; but from the fact that he was making tracks for New York in the *Continental*, when overhauled and transferred to a Government steamer, it may be inferred that he considered New York a safer field for recruiting than New Orleans. As to supplies, it is known that he has procured enough for his personal sustenance, good Government rations, dead-stuff under guard.

Verily here is a fine falling off from the General Crawford of the Liberal force. The news was that this warrior aspired to the leadership of the Northern Division in the army of Juarez—or, as the telegraph phrased it, he was "wringing several days with General Escobedo regarding the command of the Liberal force."

Now, the headquarters of that gang of filibusters whom he has the audacity to call "the American Division," are violently transferred to Fort Jackson, in which strong position, let us hope, a goodly percentage of the aforesaid American Division will be held in check.

We have never imagined Crawford's "division" to be much more than a paper force, about equivalent, say, to a veteran reserve regiment of the old pattern, or a Falastrina company, made up chiefly of its own kind.

But, large or small, we hope all these independent "armed advocates" of the Monroe Doctrine will take warning from the mishap of this General.

Of course there is but one opinion (but one opinion, at least) which ventures to find utterance, and that is the opinion of the *Continental*, which, in its editorial, has a goodly percentage of the aforesaid American Division will be held in check.

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up and thinks his limited experience in local business enables him to treat it in a national point of view. This is a mistake. Neither such men, nor the lawyers and politicians who have attempted to solve the problem, have succeeded. Their views generally are too contracted, or they indulge in theories that have no practical value. The consequence is that, with boundless resources in the country to promptly meet our liabilities, or to discharge them, and return to specie payments, we are floundering about in a sea of uncertainty, and may end in a universal wreck.

The original cause of our financial troubles was Mr. Chase. Being Secretary of the Treasury when the Government required large sums of money to carry on the war, and not understanding the subject of finance, he flooded the country with paper money and laid the foundation of the national bank system. This lawyer Secretary of the Treasury was followed by a politician from Maine, who knew as little of the subject as the former. Then came a respectable banker, who understood Wall Street operations, bank discounts, and bank circulation, but seems to have got beyond his depth in the mazes of national finance. He adopts the theory of the billionists, enjoining the lowering of many qualifying expressions, and his practice, from necessity, is contrary to his theory.

As to Congress, judging from what we have seen of the capacity of that body, there appears to be a lamentable lack of ability to treat this other great question in a statesmanlike manner. We have little hope that our representatives or officials, apart from the President, will take a broad common sense view of the matter, unless pressed to do so by the people.

Then the question cannot be over-estimated, either in its immediate or remote bearings; and it is necessary that the press should take it up with earnestness, and that the people should urge such measures as the country demands.

One of the first things to be done is to take steps to break up the present system of national banks. The principle on which they are founded is radically wrong. The credit of the Government is being used to the extent of four or five hundred millions of private bonds, or to enrich private companies, and neither the Government nor the people receiving any profit whatever. These banks are allowed to do business on Government securities. Their issues are based on these securities, the Government furnishing them with currency, or notes, or circulation, nearly to the full amount deposited. The deposited securities, however, are active or productive capital as well as the notes issued upon them.

Thus the national banks draw six or seven per cent. on the Government securities, and the securities deposited, and make as much, or more than that, on the notes for circulation given to them by the Government. In other words, the banks are making at least from twelve to fifteen per cent. on their capital, by the favor of the Government, without reckoning the profits of their business in other respects. Now, who pays this? From whom is this profit drawn? The people. The circulation of these banks will reach, when distributed all over the country, in some instances, the hundred millions of dollars. From this the banks will draw at least a clear yearly income of sixty to seventy-five millions independent of other profits arising from the banking business. Never were capitalists so favored by a Government before. It is impossible that such enormous profits should be drawn from the country and continue without the most serious consequences; for, after all, this sixty or seventy-five millions annually has to be drawn from the industry of the country. But this will not be the only or perhaps the least of them. The national bank system will build up an oligarchy, a moneyed power, far more formidable than that of the old national bank which Jackson strangled. It will keep our finances inflated and disorganized, and in the end will bring upon us both financial and political ruin.

Instead of withdrawing the legal tenders to make way for the circulation of these enormous private companies, the Government should have the benefit of its own circulation. Congress has power under the Constitution to coin money, and if it has never issued legal tenders, or issue notes to the national banks, it has power to make and establish a fixed currency of its own. A bureau could be established at the seat of government or in this metropolis, with exclusive control over the subject of notes, and it should have power, under proper provisions of law, to contract or expand operations according to the rates of exchange abroad and the balances of trade. It could be made to operate something like the manner in which the Bank of England operates, or in the manner in which the Bank of France operates, or in the manner in which the Bank of the United States operates. Our legal tenders (and under this system we suppose there would be no other national currency) would soon be like the Bank of England notes—at par with gold everywhere. This, of course, is the position which we desire, and which, if it were established, would be a great benefit to the country. At all events, something must be done soon to correct and establish our moneyed system upon a sound basis, or we shall be in danger of both financial and political troubles.

The Career of a Female Robber in Mexico. A woman, named Felicianna Vogas, was lately sentenced to death at Jalapa. The Mexican *Times*, edited by ex-Governor Allen, of Louisiana, says:

The career of crime which at last leads this woman to the scaffold is so extraordinary as to excite the attention of the entire press of this city. She was the mistress of one Gonzalez, a confectioner, and soon after the arrival of a detachment of French troops at Jalapa, in conjunction with him, mixed powder in the food of the soldiers and killed ten of them. Gonzalez was soon after arrested, tried, and executed for the crime.

Felicianna, suspecting who had denounced Gonzalez, to the authorities, dressed herself in men's clothes, entered him in her room, and the city, and killed him; but before doing so she forced him to kneel at her feet, and opening her bosom, exposed her sex, and claimed to be the better man of the two. This crime she confessed at the time of her trial, it being unknown previously.

It would take up too much space to recount the many crimes which have been committed by this woman, and we pass to the last, and the one for which she has been condemned—which was the robbery of \$5,000 gold and the jewelry of Senator Acosta on the night of the 15th of August last. The family had recently moved into the house, and Felicianna was employed as a domestic.

Public curiosity was much excited to see Felicianna and the court-room and the streets were crowded with people. She was cool and collected, and declined to sit down when brought before the Court, but remained standing, without any perceptible emotion, except the occasional quiver of the lips in answer to a question. Her voice was low, but perfectly intelligible. Upon being asked she knew with what offense she was charged, she replied, "I suppose for that on the table." On the table was the stolen jewelry. On being asked how she came by it, she replied that Felices gave her to her, and what object did he give it to you? she asked. She answered that she might keep silent as to the various crimes which she knew had been committed by him.

The Court sentenced her to die, and she listened to the sentence without the slightest emotion. She then asked to be informed who were in prison on charge of the robbery, as she wished to tell if they were guilty or innocent, and, on being informed that the mother and the father of Felices were among the others, she not. She then expressed her acquiescence in the sentence, on the ground that in that way alone would she die the death of a Christian.

The announcement of her condemnation was received by the people with surprise, who had never known a woman to be executed for crimes of influence sent a courier to Vera Cruz, and communicated with the Government at Mexico, which resulted in the respite of the woman.

More Mail Robberies.

THREE BOYS ARRESTED IN NEW HAVEN. The New Haven (Ct.) *Palladium* of Friday evening says—

Three boys, sons of respectable citizens, were arrested yesterday by Deputy Marshal Lovejoy, for obtaining letters from the Post Office under false pretenses. They obtained, among other matters, the mail for United States Revenue Collector Woodruff. In this mail was a letter containing a draft for a large sum—three thousand dollars, it is reported. Two of the boys can hardly have passed their twelfth year; the other is fourteen or fifteen. They are now held for trial. The facts are these—

"Recently El Whitney, of the Whitney Arms Company, Whiteville, missed several letters which he should have received through the mails. The frequency of these omissions led him to suspect his Irish boy, Patrick Sullivan, who had a key to the lock-box of the company, and who was in the habit of bringing the mails. Accordingly Mr. Whitney stopped into Colonel Wright's office and had a warrant made out for Sullivan's arrest before, however, he had reached the office, other developments came to light which put the officer of the law on another scent. Word was sent Mr. Whitney that a boy had offered a check in favor of Mr. Whitney at the City Bank and at the Orange Street Savings Bank, and that at both places the officer had refused to cash it. By dint of inquiry they ascertained that the name of the boy who had offered the check was Frank Hultze, a son of a blacksmith residing on George street. They found him at the High School on Orange street. On being questioned, he said the check was given him by Edward Foote, a son of Joel B. Foote, of this city. They then went to the school of John E. Coville, Esq., where they found young Hultze, who said in turn that he had been given the check by a boy named Albert Muford. To Muford next they went. They found him in the Eaton School. On being informed of the nature of the business of the Deputy Marshal, he at once made an open and clear confession, saying that he had taken the check, and that he had got it by means of a key which had been dropped on the floor of the school-room by his scampish, the Irish boy Sullivan. This explained matters a little, and of course exonerated the suspected Irish lad.

Muford was then taken into custody. He is the son of a gardener employed in this city. All are boys of unusually frank and open appearance. Muford is the oldest, and apparently the more cunning of the three. He, however, candidly stated that he got the other boys to go in with him into the letter-stealing business. From facts obtained from the boys it was ascertained that the key had been in their possession some four weeks, and that the number of letters fraudulently obtained about two dozen. All the clear profits they had obtained from the operations would not, however, amount to more than twenty-five cents, as the letters contained either checks or drafts, or else were mere business documents.

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